

1 THE MAJORIE FIRM LTD.  
 2 Francis B. Majorie  
 3 *Pro Hac Vice* (Per BK Dkt. 1915 ¶ 153)  
 4 1450 Cottonwood Valley Court  
 5 Irving, Texas 75038  
 6 Telephone: (214) 306-8107  
 7 Fax Number: (214) 522-7911

8 *Counsel for Claims Recovery Trust*

9  
 10 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
 11 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 12 In re   | ) Case No.: BK-S-09-32824-RCJ (Lead Case)   |
| 13 ASSET RESOLUTION, LLC,  | ) Chapter 7   |
| 14                              Debtor.  | )   |
| 15 Jointly Administered with Case Nos.:<br>BK-S-09-32831-RCJ; BK-S-09-32839-RCJ;<br>BK-S-09-32843-RCJ; BK-S-09-32844-RCJ;<br>BK-S-09-32846-RCJ; BK-S-09-32849-RCJ;<br>BK-S-09-32851-RCJ; BK-S-09-32853-RCJ;<br>BK-S-09-32868-RCJ; BK-S-09-32873-RCJ;<br>BK-S-09-32875-RCJ; BK-S-09-32878-RCJ;<br><u>BK-S-09-32880-RCJ; BK-S-09-32882-RCJ</u> | ) <b>DECLARATION OF DONNA<br/>     CANGELOSI IN OPPOSITION TO<br/>     MOTION OF COMMERCAL<br/>     MORTGAGE MANAGERS FOR<br/>     RELIEF FROM STAY PURSUANT TO<br/>     11 U.S.C. 362 TO PROCEED IN NON-<br/>     BANKRUPTCY FORUM [Dkt Nos.<br/>     3306 &amp; 3308]</b> |
| 16   | ) Courtroom 4B  |
| 17   | ) Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse  |
| 18 <u>Affects this Debtor Only</u>   | ) 333 Las Vegas Blvd., South<br>) Las Vegas, Nevada 89101<br>) Judge Robert C. Jones<br>)<br>) Hearing: Monday, May 14, 2018 at 10am  |

1 I, DONNA CANGELOSI, hereby declare under penalties of perjury as follows:  
2

3 1. My name is Donna Cangelosi. I am over the age of 18 and able to testify if called  
4 upon. The statements in this declaration are true and are based on my personal knowledge or my  
5 review of records, as indicated below.

6 2. I am not a direct lender in Marlton Square, but hold governing positions on both the  
7 B&B DL Qualified Settlement Trust (“QST”) and the Claims Recovery Trust (“CRT”). The QST  
8 is the equity interest holder in the Asset Resolution Estate per the Global Settlement in 2012 [Dkt  
9 No. 1915]. The Estate holds a direct lender interest of 39% of the subject property, Marlton  
10 Square. The CRT was created, among other reasons, to assist direct lenders in pursuit of claims.  
11

12 3. I have overseen and/or performed all the calculations for every distribution to DLs  
13 from various USACM loans since 2012 and have been responsible for distribution for all the funds  
14 to the B&B DLs and for most of the funds to the non B&B DLs from the liquidation of loans and  
15 settlement funds. During that period, we have issued over 10,000 checks with no errors, save for  
16 one (whereby 2 checks to different parties stuck together and were mailed together).  
17

18 4. No DL has ever raised a concern over not receiving a check, miscalculations, or  
19 any improper issues. Payments and calculations are fully documented and transparent. I and my  
20 team carefully work to find every DL or their legacy heirs, work through divorce, trust, probate  
21 and other issues and assure everyone is properly paid every penny they are owed. We have worked  
22 successfully with the Estate to find DLs for whom the Estate was holding “stale” funds from the  
23 2010/2012 distributions and have gotten that money to those DLs or heirs. Currently, we hold  
24 money only for those whose funds are tied up in probate ownership issues, and those funds are  
25 held in a segregated account. We also secure all Tax ID numbers to assure for proper reporting.  
26 We maintain a secure sophisticated data base tracking all DLs, contact information, holdings, their  
27 voting records and distributions and TINs.  
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5. In 2016, Kevin Olsen contacted me expressing his concern that CMM and David Rentz as manager of Marlton Recovery Partners had sold the remaining parcels of Marlton Square without so much as informing its members and DLs of the sale. He also expressed frustration regarding his repeated ignored requests to CMM for an accounting following the January 2012 distribution. He expressed that during that period, he had many DLs express concern over the lack of transparency and or missing distributions. Kevin requested The Claims Recovery Trust get involved to apply pressure for CMM to produce the required accounting transparency.

6. On June 1, 2016, I wrote to David Rentz requesting a complete and transparent accounting. Exhibit 1 of this declaration is a duplicate of the email chain whereby I request that accounting. In this exchange, I cordially state to Mr. Rentz that he promised the Court he would make this available within a specified period, and we were prepared to file a motion to compel if it was not produced. This email chain also contains conversation concerning the facts as they were known at that time (I subsequently learned that the facts were different).

7. Sometime between late June and August of 2016, it is my understanding a form of accounting was finally sent to the Marlton members/DLs. I did not receive a copy of that accounting. I have the mailing envelope of the package sent to Kevin Olsen and the postage stamp states CMM mailed it on August 1, 2016, even though the letter was dated June 24, 2016. The package contains various Quick Books-generated financial reports through February 28, 2016.

8. In September 2016, Kevin sent me the accounting package he received from CMM for my review. Up until that point, I had no information regarding the accounting or practices related to CMM or Marlton Recovery Partners.

9. Meanwhile, on July 18, 2016, Mike Milo of CMM sent an email to Rob Millimet of Brewer Attorneys (formerly Bickle & Brewer) requesting verification of the B&B DLs, attaching a spread sheet. My June 1 email had directed CMM to send any payments intended for the

1 Marlton B&B DLs to the QST for subsequent distribution, as has been customary of all  
2 distributions since 2012 in all assets. Mr. Millimet sent me the email and attachment for my  
3 review. Carol Kesler and I embarked upon an exercise to compare CMM's records to ours and  
4 provided numerous discrepancy reports to Mr. Millimet. Many emails were exchanged between  
5 Mr. Millimet and CMM until Sept 12, 2016, after which my records show communications  
6 between CMM and Mr. Millimet ceased.

7  
8 10. Between the period of September 12, 2016 to September 15, 2016, I commenced  
9 communicating directly via email with Rentz regarding the first distribution discrepancies, which  
10 were numerous. Exhibit 2 to this declaration is a duplicate of the email chain between us. In this  
11 email, I stated that we needed to sit down and compare records and that the appropriate time to do  
12 so was when we were to conduct a financial review the following week on September 20 and 21. I  
13 also expressed concern over why this review needed to be done at his attorney's office, stating it  
14 was an added expense that the DLs did not need to incur. Rentz did not respond.  
15

16  
17 11. On September 20 and 21, Kevin Olsen and I conducted a financial review at  
18 CMM's law offices of Ervin Cohen & Jessup. The financial information we were presented was  
19 only made available through Feb 28, 2016. Some of the information discovered during and after  
20 that financial review is reported below. The financial review was conducted under close scrutiny  
21 of one of the firm's paralegals. We were not permitted to be alone in the room, the paralegal took  
22 notes of the discussions between Kevin and me, and the paralegal noted all the documents for  
23 which we requested copies. We repeatedly asked when David Rentz or any other CMM  
24 representative would be coming and were told they did not know. Mr. Rentz finally did appear for  
25 about five minutes and avoided answering any questions we had for him, stating he didn't know or  
26 remember. He quickly exited and we did not see him again.  
27

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1           12. For approximately two months, Kevin and I diligently worked on verifying various  
 2 items reflected in the CMM accounting, including verifying that there were missing 2012  
 3 distributions to various DLs and determining the rightful sums that should have been distributed to  
 4 each and every Marlton DL in the 2012 distribution. We discovered that all payments CMM made  
 5 to all DLs were incorrect and DLs were treated unevenly. We created discrepancy reports and set  
 6 about rectifying these uneven payments through the final distribution. However, in order to do so  
 7 we needed the accounting from Feb 28, 2016 to October 30, 2016 (which we were not provided).  
 8

9           13. During this period, we also identified discrepancies between the bank statements,  
 10 profit & loss statements and balance sheets presented by CMM. We requested the additional  
 11 accounting information for the periods from March 1 through October 2016 (through lawyer Jann  
 12 Chubb) and received bank statements with some but not all check images. However, we did not  
 13 receive an accounting or supporting documentation for any checks.  
 14

15           14. Meanwhile, CMM's attorneys were making allegations that we were holding up the  
 16 final distribution. We were – we wanted CMM to get it right.  
 17

18           15. **RESULTS OF CERTAIN FINDINGS REGARDING CMM PRODUCED  
 19 RECORDS:**

- 20           • In 2012, CMM announced that Marlton Recover Partners would be distributing \$6 Million  
 21 to the member/DLs from the \$15+ Million sale to Kaiser. Aside from the Member/DL  
 22 distribution being incorrect, 13.25% of the distribution or \$795,000 was not paid to MRP  
 members/DLs and as of this date still has not been paid.
- 23           • At the time that CMM announced they would make that distribution, their bank account  
 24 reflected they had insufficient funds to cover that \$6 Million. The maximum bank balance  
 25 they had was \$4.954 Million on December 10, 2012.
- 26           • CMM and related parties had paid themselves more than \$1.8 Million from the bank  
 27 account, not including payments made to them directly from the closing escrow and other  
 28 payments to CMM owned affiliates. These were not payments associated with CMM's DL  
 owned interests up to this point.

- In CMM's January 13, 2013 report to the court, it states the distribution was made according to the 2012 Global Settlement – it was not; and an accounting would be forthcoming – which was never produced until June 2016.
- CMM never set aside the \$795,000 associated with unpaid or uncashed checks Member/DL checks. This money remained comingled in their operating account. CMM never sought my help to find those DLs. Instead, it continued to compensate itself another \$910,000 in questionable fees driving the bank balance to -796.74 on December 17, 2015 (which is, of course, woefully insufficient to cover the \$795,000 owed to certain Member/DLs).
- CMM had taken as compensation money that belonged to Members/DL from the first distribution.

16. On November 29 and 30, 2016, I responded to a letter Ms. Chubb had received from Robert Waxman of Ervin, Cohen & Jessup. A duplicate of the email exchange on this topic is attached as Exhibit 3 to this declaration. That email details the events showing the DLs' repeated, unfulfilled requests for documents and information. These stand in sharp contrast to the assertions about disclosures and accountings made in the Declaration of Mr. Rentz [Dkt 3308]. My email ended with the following:

*"The document request is incomplete. When will CMM provide the accounting from Feb 2016 to October 2016? Are you suggesting there is no accounting and only source documents for which we must create accounting?"*

*I might add that there are many questions to the significant sums CMM and others have taken that do not tie into any agreements or disclosures contrary to his statement. It is unreasonable that the DLs have realized less than \$8 Million on a sale of \$23 Million and CMM and affiliates have taken significant undisclosed sums. How do they want to proceed with satisfying these questions? Until then, this matter is not ready to be closed."*

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17. During the next 60 days, I was made aware that CMM filed demands for arbitration  
and sent a communication to various MRP Members/DLs (Marlton DLs), whereby they were  
bullied to either go to arbitration/litigation or sign waivers that provided CMM/Marlton Recovery  
Partners with releases.

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7  
18. Attached as Exhibits 4, 5, and 6 to this declaration are duplicates of orders entered  
in either the Asset Resolution case or the *Barkett* case.

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10  
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing  
is true and correct.

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14  
15 Executed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.  
  
DONNA CANGELESI

16  
17 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

18  
19 This certifies that the undersigned has served the foregoing opposition on counsel for  
CCM, the Debtor, and others through the ECF system on April 30, 2018.

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28  
/s/ Francis B. Majorie  
Francis B. Majorie

# EXHIBIT 1

From: **Donna Cangelosi** <[dcangelosi@gmail.com](mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Jun 9, 2016 at 9:23 AM  
Subject: Re: FW: MARLTON  
To: David Rentz <[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)>  
Cc: "Cc: Frank Majorie" <[fwmajorie@themajoriefirm.com](mailto:fwmajorie@themajoriefirm.com)>, Janet Chubb <[JChubb@kcnvlaw.com](mailto:JChubb@kcnvlaw.com)>, Jonathan Dabbieri <[dabbieri@sullivanhill.com](mailto:dabbieri@sullivanhill.com)>, Michael Coulson <[michael@coulsoncpa.com](mailto:michael@coulsoncpa.com)>, Kevin Olsen <[kevinolsen50@gmail.com](mailto:kevinolsen50@gmail.com)>, Rob Millimet <[rrm@bickelbrewer.com](mailto:rrm@bickelbrewer.com)>

Hello David

Thanks for the reply.

I agree with many of the statements you made.

1. Yes, distribution of money must be made very carefully to assure it gets in the correct hands. I and my team have distributed over 30 million dollar and am proud to say without an error. We are very cautious and spend an extraordinary amount of time maintaining accurate records for all the dls, tracking divorces, gifting and legacy, moves, etc to assure there are no errors. I would advise you to compare your records with ours as we have found the status of every single DL so far to assure accurate distributions.
2. David, I most wholeheartedly agree that you have advanced the funds necessary to resolve the assets and have zealously pursued a recovery. I wish Duncan had done the job he promised to do - which is what you have done. I do know these assets are difficult to resolve with what should be criminal underwriting issues and state/county/city difficulties.

What I cannot agree to is that accounting has been presented to either the court or the direct lenders. I looked through your reports to the court and found discussion of the problems, but no accounting. In your April 15, 2016 report, you do report that a final accounting would be made available in 90 days. If my counting is correct, that is next week. However, I am aware that Kevin has asked over and over for this information throughout this process and it has not been forthcoming but has had many missed promises.

The Direct Lenders should not have to go to the court to review information concerning their asset. They are frustrated that they have had no say at all. The information should be forthcoming from you. In fact, no DL was included in your certificate of service so you can see they have been in the dark. They are frustrated by the lack of accounting information which is turning a good event into a frustration and seeking help from the Claims Recovery Trust to acquire the accounting which they claim they have been asking for years.

It is in all's best interest if a complete accounting is made available for anyone who wishes to conduct a review. I assume your agreement grants the DLs the right to have access to this information, without having to go through your attorney or accountant - which incurs extra expense. It should be made available by you in your office.

My email is a call to help avoid any extra expense and ask your cooperation for something that has been requested since the first distribution in 2012.

Thank you.

On Thu, Jun 2, 2016 at 1:00 PM, David Rentz <[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)> wrote:

Donna:

It was nice to hear from you. As we explained to Kevin, we are going through the same process as we did last time in January of 2013, before we make a final distribution. This includes us confirming that no interests in the LLC have been sold or transferred. Because this is the final accounting, it is essential that we take every precaution to ensure that there are no mistakes. It is much more difficult to have money returned if a mistake is made.

In regard to your statement that there has not been “one bit of accounting,” that simply is incorrect. Please check the routine reports that we filed with the Court each quarter, as required.

We look forward to making the final distribution and closing the LLC within the next 30 days. However, as I told Kevin, the independent CPA will have her work completed next week. We explained to Kevin that the CPA could not get to Marlton until after tax season (April 18<sup>th</sup>). Since then she has been working with us to prepare a final accounting. We directed the CPA to include all LLC members with financial statements which would include all items in 2016 and not just 12/31/2015 ending statements. We are not her only client and must work with her schedule and she has been very good to accommodate us.

We would enjoy you coming to our office. However, you should have the final accounting in hand so you will have a base-line to work from. As soon as you get the accounting let’s make arrangements for a time and we will accommodate your visit.

When we did the last distribution we paid B&B and the trustee directly. You mentioned the “many hats” you wear in the USACM matters. In that regard, please provide us a letter from B&B that they want their upcoming check sent to a third party. We will do whatever they want, however, it is a change from what was required last time.

Lastly, we do not take your threat of litigation lightly, and would prefer to expedite the distribution process. We are a California LLC and are governed by California law and our LLC agreement. We have done much more than would have ever been expected of us to maximize the return to the investors. The largest expense to the LLC has been property taxes that were not challenged before we became the loan servicer. Working with our consultants on this matter and title issues has, in fact, pulled this loan out of a complete failure. Furthermore, as you, Kevin and I have discussed, the past unpaid property taxes and failure of past servicers to timely dispute the taxes have cost millions. And it was our consultants and our efforts that did, in fact, result in the return of a small portion of property taxes. I feel badly for the LLC members that more money may be spent on additional attorneys with nothing to be gained. Our accounting at all levels will prove to be clean and now there is yet another delay in bringing this loan to an end.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

David Rentz

For: Marlton Recovery Partners, LLC

2601 Airport Dr. #290

Torrance, CA 90505

O – [310-325-1409](#)

**From:** Donna Cangelosi [<mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2016 08:02 PM

**To:** David Rentz <[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)>

**Cc:** Frank Majorie <[fwmajorie@themajoriefirm.com](mailto:fwmajorie@themajoriefirm.com)>; Janet Chubb <[JChubb@kcnvlaw.com](mailto:JChubb@kcnvlaw.com)>; Jonathan Dabbieri <[dabbieri@sullivanhill.com](mailto:dabbieri@sullivanhill.com)>; Michael Coulson <[michael@coulsoncpa.com](mailto:michael@coulsoncpa.com)>; Kevin Olsen

<[kevinolsen50@gmail.com](mailto:kevinolsen50@gmail.com)>; Rob Millimet <[rrm@bickelbrewer.com](mailto:rrm@bickelbrewer.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: MARLTON

Hello David

I hope this communication finds you well.

I have been appraised of the emails going back and forth between you and Kevin. . As you may know, I do wear many hats in the USACM matters which include representative of the equity interest holders (the BB DL Settlement Trust) of the ARC estate, the primary contact with the Trustee and Counsel of the ARC estate concerning the assets and financial matters of the estate (and I might say it is a very functional relationship), a director of the Claims Recovery Trust which is tasked with bringing claims forward of those who have been deemed to have harmed the DLs, and the primary Bickel & Brewer liaison. I have also either directly resolved numerous of the USACM assets or been closely involved in their resolution. In addition to those various roles, I have been directing distributions to all BB DLs since 2012 as well as all DLs involved in certain assets. Complete transparency is essential in these matters.

Since 2012 Kevin Olsen has patiently and repeatedly asked you for a complete and transparent accounting. Many millions of dollars have been withheld from sales proceeds and there has not been one bit of accounting. Most recently, Kevin has been asking you for this accounting since prior to April 15th, and there has always been excuses, unkept promises and missed dates. So David, what should one assume?

Kevin and I would like to come to your office for a complete review of the expenses charged against Marlton within the next two weeks. Please tell us which dates work for you. We would like to review all invoices, agreements, bank statements, expense registers and any other pertinent documents.

If you cannot accommodate us, we plan to seek a court order compelling this review.

Also, please send the Marlton funds you plan to distribute to the BB DLs to the Qualified Settlement Trust for distribution. My team will do that distribution and assure that all funds are received by each of the BB DLs.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you with some dates.

On Wed, Jun 1, 2016 at 2:55 PM, Kevin M. Olsen <[kevinolsen50@gmail.com](mailto:kevinolsen50@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello David,

This is nice to know, however direct lenders and the ARC Estate need an advanced accounting BEFORE the distribution of checks. All parties need to see expenses before distribution should there be issues regarding accounting. By doing this CMM can avoid making an error in the anticipated distribution. Could you please send me the final expense report for the project along with the anticipated distribution amount to the DL's as soon as you can?

Also, if you need help contacting DL's who haven't responded please let me know and I will use our resources to attempt to locate them.

Thanks,

Kevin

702-822-0964

**From:** David Rentz [mailto:[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 2:09 PM  
**To:** 'Kevin M. Olsen'  
**Cc:** 'Mike Mollo'  
**Subject:** MARLTON

Kevin:

Attached please find the updated equity accounts that will be used to make distributions and complete the accounting. If you see any errors, please let us know. We will start sending checks and the accounting next week. We have received most of the estoppable letters. For those few we are not received, we are going to reach out to them, but it will not hold up the distributions or accounting any longer.

Thanks.

David Rentz

2601 Airport Dr. #290

Torrance, CA 90505

O – 310-325-1409

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Donna Cangelosi

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Donna Cangelosi

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Donna Cangelosi

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# EXHIBIT 2

From: **Donna Cangelosi** <[dcangelosi@gmail.com](mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2016 at 1:48 PM  
Subject: Fwd: FW: Marlton CMM File review #2  
To: David Rentz <[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)>, Carol Kesler <[DIRECTLENDER20@gmail.com](mailto:DIRECTLENDER20@gmail.com)>, Rob Millimet <[RRM@brewerattorneys.com](mailto:RRM@brewerattorneys.com)>, Janet Chubb <[JChubb@kcnvlaw.com](mailto:JChubb@kcnvlaw.com)>, Kevin Olsen <[kevinolsen50@gmail.com](mailto:kevinolsen50@gmail.com)>

The PDF to which I am referring is the one you sent Rob Millimet on August 25. It us attached below with all the other documents sent.

When I referred to each DL receiving the same percentage, what that meant was the following:

A 50K position received - ,according to your schedule - \$10,617.81

Therefore, a 100K position should have received double that or 21,235.62. But you are indicating you only sent \$20,610.81 for a \$100K position.

You say that for a 300K position you sent 62,457.01, but assuming you sent the right amount for a \$50 K position, it should have been \$63,706.86.

When I referred to the same percentage of distribution for each DL, of course that considered their position size and it meant each DL received their equal pro-rata share of the distributed funds.

Now we have all the non BB DLS for whom you claim you sent us money, despite the fact that they were never on our list we sent you in 2012 naming the BB DLs. We didn't send them money - did you? We didn't sent you back those funds you say you sent us for them as we didn't even know you sent us money for them. We assumed the money you sent was for those on our list - not some other list. So if they did get paid - then who paid them?

And then we have those who were always BB DLs - were always on the list we sent you - and we never received money for them. These were not new clients to BB. BB hasn't signed a new client since 2009. That list has been very static. We sent every BB DL on our list a check yet you say you didn't send us money for them as you didn't know they were BB DLs. And if your position is they were not BB DLs - then you should have sent them money. So the should have gotten money from us and you.

The only way we can solve this is by sitting down with your check register and ours and comparing who got what funds and what the math was behind the money you sent us and the non BB dls. So we will be there in your attorney's office on Tuesday as we have been instructed and will be prepared with our documents. But Frankly David - I don't know why we have to meet in an attorney's office - it's an unnecessary expense to involve attorneys in a financial matter. I am sure you are not concerned this is a legal matter - it's all math and all properly documented.

David - I and my team are really good at accurately distributing funds. We have cut over 10,000 checks thus far with only 1 error which was quickly resolved - and it was a mailing error of 2

checks sticking together. Biff counts on our calculations for his distributions. I am certain we can resolve this, but we need all the distribution data to resolve this - not just the BB half.

See you Tuesday. We'll be in the office by about 10 but please reconsider having this meeting in a lower cost environment. The DLs have already had far too many expenses with this asset.

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rob Millimet <[RRM@brewerattorneys.com](mailto:RRM@brewerattorneys.com)>

Date: Thu, Aug 25, 2016 at 4:10 PM

Subject: FW: Marlton CMM File review #2

To: Donna Cangelosi <[dcangelosi@gmail.com](mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com)>, "Carol Kesler ([directlender20@gmail.com](mailto:directlender20@gmail.com))" <[directlender20@gmail.com](mailto:directlender20@gmail.com)>

**From:** David Rentz [mailto:[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2016 6:10 PM

**To:** Rob Millimet

**Cc:** 'Mike Mollo'

**Subject:** RE: Marlton CMM File review #2

Mr. Millimet:

Please see the attached information.

During the last distribution we worked with everyone on your team trying to get it correct. However, I believe there was an inaccuracy, which we are trying to correct.

As you can see from the attached email, we sent the trustee a check for \$133,650 for his fees. However, when the email read "less B&B share" we then sent a check to B&B for the \$91,350.00. No one

corrected us at the time. We now realize that was incorrect. We should have subtracted the \$133,650 from the Non-B&B clients resulting in leaving more funds in the total pool for distribution.

We sent the attached checks to B&B:

1. \$2,436,402.00
2. \$ 91,350.00
3. \$ 64,620.97
4. \$ 10,617.69
5. \$ 10,617.69
6. \$ 36,134.00

The total amount of the last distribution was \$6,000,000. Based upon the amounts listed above and the list of B&B clients provided to us for the last distribution, there was an overpayment to B&B. Please see the attached list that was provided to us for calculation of the last distribution. We are going to distribute the current funds in distribution in two amounts to make sure that there are no mistakes that cannot be adjusted in the final distribution.

One more side issue. Your new B&B clients, such as Kevin Olsen received a check directly last time (\$12,000), which had no B&B fees subtracted. We have no reason to reconcile those type issues as we view them as a B&B internal issue.

I hope all this helps.

Thanks.

David

David Rentz

2601 Airport Dr. #290

Torrance, CA 90505

O – 310-325-1409

**From:** Rob Millimet [<mailto:RRM@brewerattorneys.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 09:00 AM  
**To:** 'David Rentz' <[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)>  
**Cc:** Mike Mollo ([mp.mollo@verizon.net](mailto:mp.mollo@verizon.net)) <[mp.mollo@verizon.net](mailto:mp.mollo@verizon.net)>; Donna Cangelosi <[dcangelosi@gmail.com](mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com)>; Carol Kesler ([directlender20@gmail.com](mailto:directlender20@gmail.com)) <[directlender20@gmail.com](mailto:directlender20@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Marlton CMM File review #2

David,

We are still working on tying up the numbers from the last Marlton distribution. To do that, we need to know the exact gross dollar amount you previously distributed to all Marlton DLs (not just Marlton B&B DLs) or the percentage of the total Marlton UPB that the distribution was based on. Can you please send me those numbers?

Also, can you please tell me if there were any Asset Resolution servicing fees credited or deducted as part of the lump sum amount that you sent us for disbursement to the Marlton B&B DLs in connection with the prior distribution? If so, how much in total?

Once we get that information, we should be able to resolve any outstanding issues concerning the new distribution.

I have added Donna and Carol to this email string because they are the ones working on this matter with us. Please copy them on your communication back to me.

Thanks,

Rob

**From:** David Rentz [<mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 2:46 PM  
**To:** Rob Millimet  
**Subject:** RE: Marlton CMM File review #2

Thank you

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Rob Millimet <[RRM@brewerattorneys.com](mailto:RRM@brewerattorneys.com)>

Date: 8/18/16 11:38 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: 'David Rentz' <[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)>

Cc: 'Mike Mollo' <[mp.mollo@verizon.net](mailto:mp.mollo@verizon.net)>

Subject: RE: Marlton CMM File review #2

Perhaps another week. We are still trying to track down a couple of issues that we have determined require information to be pulled from storage. We are working on it, though. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

**From:** David Rentz [<mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net>]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2016 10:30 AM

**To:** Rob Millimet

**Cc:** 'Mike Mollo'

**Subject:** RE: Marlton CMM File review #2

Mr. Millimet:

On Aug, 8, 2016 I sent the email below. Do you have a time frame that we may expect an answer?

Thank you.

David Rentz

2601 Airport Dr. #290

Torrance, CA 90505

O – [310-325-1409](tel:310-325-1409)

**From:** David Rentz [<mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, August 8, 2016 03:03 PM

**To:** 'Rob Millimet' <[RRM@brewerattorneys.com](mailto:RRM@brewerattorneys.com)>

**Cc:** 'Mike Mollo ([mp.mollo@verizon.net](mailto:mp.mollo@verizon.net))' <[mp.mollo@verizon.net](mailto:mp.mollo@verizon.net)>  
**Subject:** RE: Marlton CMM File review #2

Robert:

Ok. We have completed step one. We now have the new list of B & B clients.

Step 2. The last distribution to all LLC Members was 20% of the gross LLC Membership (\$30,000,000) or \$6,000,000. We may have been incorrect on the money we sent to B&B.

What happen was, we may have sent a credit on the trustee servicing fees, which B&B Members were not to pay, and then not charged the Non-B&B LLC Members. Therefore, we are going to need to balance the ledger on this distribution.

On the last distribution we sent the following checks to B&B.

|       |                       |              |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1.    | \$2,436,402.00        | (12/26/2012) |
| 2.    | \$ 91,350.00          | (12/26/2012) |
| 3.    | \$ 64,620.97          | (12/28/2012) |
| 4.    | \$ 36,134.00          | (12/31/2012) |
| 5.    | \$ 10,619.69          | (2/27/2013)  |
| 6.    | \$ 10,617.69          | (2/27/2013)  |
| Total | <u>\$2,649,742.35</u> |              |

The last distribution was made based on equity of \$11,689,500. Now that you have added new B & B clients. Can your office please tell us who was newly added since the last distribution? For example, we know Kevin Olsen was newly added. After we get that information we can then look at what was sent last time and make sure no one was over or under paid.

Thanks.

David

David Rentz

2601 Airport Dr. #290

Torrance, CA 90505

O – [310-325-1409](#)

**From:** Rob Millimet [<mailto:RRM@brewerattorneys.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, August 8, 2016 01:01 PM

**To:** 'David Rentz' <[sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfg.rentz@sbcglobal.net)>

**Cc:** 'Mike Mollo' <[mp.mollo@verizon.net](mailto:mp.mollo@verizon.net)>

**Subject:** RE: Marlton CMM File review #2

Please wire the total to be disbursed to the B&B DLs to the following account:

**Wells Fargo Bank**

**Eden, UT 84310**

**801-745-0295**

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Donna Cangelosi

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Donna Cangelosi

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# **EXHIBIT 3**

From: "Janet Chubb" <[JChubb@kcnvlaw.com](mailto:JChubb@kcnvlaw.com)>  
Date: Dec 16, 2016 12:14 PM  
Subject: Re: Additional Documents re Marlton  
To: "John Shenk" <[jshenk@ecjlaw.com](mailto:jshenk@ecjlaw.com)>  
Cc: "Cheryl Byrne" <[CByrne@kcnvlaw.com](mailto:CByrne@kcnvlaw.com)>, "Robert Waxman" <[rwxman@ecjlaw.com](mailto:rwxman@ecjlaw.com)>, "Donna Cangelosi" <[dcangelosi@gmail.com](mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com)>

Thank you. I have forwarded your message to Ms. Cangelosi and will respond to you next week.  
Jann Chubb

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2016, at 8:21 AM, John Shenk <[jshenk@ECJLAW.COM](mailto:jshenk@ECJLAW.COM)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Chubb,

I work with Robert Waxman. As you know, our client has carefully considered Ms. Cangelosi's email and does not think it is appropriate to debate its contents by correspondence. Suffice it to say that our client disagrees with the assertions that Ms. Cangelosi has made. That said, our client certainly does not take Ms. Cangelosi's unfounded accusations lightly, nor does it believe that final distributions to the Members of Marlton Recovery Partners LLC ("MRP") should be indefinitely held up at her insistence or that of the persons whom she claims to represent. To do so would be patently unfair to the other Members of MRP that seek to have their final distributions made forthwith and in accordance with the terms of the governing Operating Agreement.

But in light of the serious nature of those allegations along with the failure of Ms. Cangelosi and Mr. Olsen to cooperate with Commercial Mortgage Managers ("CMM") in its effort to clarify the proper amounts for final distribution, CMM has been left with no choice other than to commence arbitration under the terms of the Operating Agreement. The Arbitration Demand, attached here, seeks declaratory relief (1) for an order setting the amounts to be distributed to each of the Members; (2) that payments by MRP for services were made in accordance with the Operating Agreement; (3) finding that CMM has complied with its obligations and duties as Manager of MRP; (4) that the Members of MRP are required to hold CMM harmless as set forth in the Operating Agreement and to reimburse MRP for attorney fees advanced by it or to be paid by CMM relating to the declaratory relief action; and (5) for an order shifting the burden for reimbursement of those attorney fees from all Members of MRP to those Members who have improperly delayed or impeded final distribution, while at the same time objecting to CMM's efforts to wind up MRP.

Please communicate once again to Ms. Cangelosi and Mr. Olsen that CMM is committed to making sure that the final distributions are correct and that it desires to make those final distributions as soon as possible in order to wind up MRP. Because of CMM's commitment to doing so, it has commenced this

arbitration – naming all Members of MRP – in order to finalize these issues and adjudicate both the overt and veiled allegations made by Ms. Cangelosi on behalf the persons or entities she claims to represent. However with or without arbitration, CMM remains ready and willing to work with any party that can aid in clarifying the proper amounts of distributions so that this matter can be finally resolved and all interested parties can move forward.

Regards,

---

**John W. Shenk, Esq.**

ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP

9401 Wilshire Boulevard, 9th Floor | Beverly Hills, CA 90212-2974

[\(310\) 281-6334](#) (t) | [\(310\) 859-2325](#) (f)

[www.ecjlaw.com](http://www.ecjlaw.com) | [jshenk@ecjlaw.com](mailto:jshenk@ecjlaw.com)

---

**From:** Janet Chubb [<mailto:JChubb@kcnvlaw.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2016 11:28 AM  
**To:** Robert Waxman  
**Cc:** John Shenk; [dcangelosi@gmail.com](mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com); Cheryl Byrne  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Additional Documents re Marlton

Dear Mr. Waxman,

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Jann

Cbc t 14

Please be advised that information sent to this email address may be read by my assistant.

<image001.gif>

Janet L. Chubb

Kaempfer Crowell

50 West Liberty Street, Suite 700  
Reno, Nevada 89501  
Tel: [\(775\) 398-4740](tel:(775)398-4740)  
Cell: [\(775\) 772-9252](tel:(775)772-9252)  
Fax: [\(775\) 327-2011](tel:(775)327-2011)  
Email: [jchubb@kcnvlaw.com](mailto:jchubb@kcnvlaw.com)

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**From:** Robert Waxman [<mailto:rwxman@ECJLAW.COM>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 8, 2016 10:52 AM  
**To:** Janet Chubb  
**Cc:** John Shenk  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Additional Documents re Marlton

Dear Ms. Chubb,

Thank you for your correspondence. We are discussing the Cangelosi email that you forwarded with our client and will fashion an appropriate response shortly.

Regards,

RMW

**From:** Janet Chubb [<mailto:jchubb@kcnvlaw.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:53 PM  
**To:** Robert Waxman  
**Cc:** Cheryl Byrne; [dcangelosi@gmail.com](mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Additional Documents re Marlton

Dear Mr. Waxman,

Here is Donna's input. Please let us know when the additional information/documents can be provided.

Thank you.

Jann

Please be advised that information sent to this email address may be read by my assistant.

<image001.gif>

Janet L. Chubb

Kaempfer Crowell

50 West Liberty Street, Suite 700  
Reno, Nevada 89501  
Tel: [\(775\) 398-4740](tel:(775)398-4740)  
Cell: [\(775\) 772-9252](tel:(775)772-9252)  
Fax: [\(775\) 327-2011](tel:(775)327-2011)  
Email: [jchubb@kcnvlaw.com](mailto:jchubb@kcnvlaw.com)

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**From:** Donna Cangelosi [<mailto:dcangelosi@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 2:35 PM  
**To:** Janet Chubb  
**Cc:** Cheryl Byrne  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Additional Documents re Marlton

Response to Robert Waxman letter to set the record straight and to request additional documents:

1. For years, Mr. Olsen has been asking for the records from Mr. Rentz, only to be met with excuses by Mr. Rentz. No financial information has ever been presented to the DLs or the Federal District court prior to the documentation provided in late June 2016. Discovery shall bear that out.

The request to have an in depth review of the records was finally agreed to in August. An comprehensive list of documents was requested for that review. Only partial information was presented with significant gaps. The documentation only dated to Feb 2016, prior to the sale of the final parcels. This represented a significant void for piecing this puzzle together.

2. Mr. Rentz made himself available for 5 minutes. He had no answers to any questions that were asked of him. He played dumb when he was told the Feb – August 2016 data was missing, along with other questions he was asked.

3. The 2012 DL distribution is completely wrong for both the BB DLs and the non BB DLs. Some DLs never received checks, other DLs received two checks. In all cases the 2012 amounts remitted to all DLs was wrong. Mr. Rentz completely ignored the 2012 spreadsheet provided by Bickel & Brewer further exacerbating his errors. The task is now to determine how to rectify those errors and why that undistributed money is missing from the bank account. This takes significant time and requires the information recently requested. Both distributions have to be examined together to determine shortfalls and overpayments to Direct Lenders on this asset.

4. The document request is incomplete . When will CMM provide the accounting from Feb 2016 to October 2016? Are you suggesting there is no accounting and only source documents for which we must create accounting?

I might add that there are many questions to the significant sums CMM and others have taken that do not tie into any agreements or disclosures contrary to his statement. It is unreasonable that the DLs have realized less than \$8 Million on a sale of \$23Million and CMM and affiliates have taken significant undisclosed sums. How do they want to proceed with satisfying these questions. Until then, this matter is not ready to be closed.

--

Donna Cangelosi

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# EXHIBIT 4

1  
2  
3  
4 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

5 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

6 THE RICHARD AND SHEILA J. MCKNIGHT )  
7 2000 FAMILY TRUST et al., )  
8 Plaintiffs, )  
9 vs. )  
10 WILLIAM J. BARKETT et al., )  
11 Defendants. )  
12 \_\_\_\_\_

2:10-cv-01617-RCJ-GWF

**ORDER**

13 This case arises out of the same facts as the USA Commercial case. Pending before the  
14 Court are motions to dismiss two separate Complaints in Intervention and a Counterclaim for  
15 lack of subject matter jurisdiction. For the reasons given herein, the Court denies the motions.

16 **I. FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

17 Plaintiff Richard McKnight,<sup>1</sup> as trustee for The Richard & Sheila J. McKnight 2000  
18 Family Trust (“the McKnight Trust”) provided \$100,000 out of the total of \$4.5 million that  
19 various direct lenders loaned to Defendant Castaic III Partners, LLC (“Castaic III”) through USA  
20 Commercial Mortgage Co. (“USA Commercial”). (Compl. ¶ 5, Sept. 21, 2010, ECF No. 1). The  
21 McKnight Trust has received no interest payments on the loan since August 2006. (*Id.* ¶ 9).

22 Plaintiff sued Defendants Castaic III and William J. Barkett in this Court on two claims:  
23 (1) Breach of Guaranty (Barkett only); and (2) Declaratory Judgment. The Court denied a

24  
25 <sup>1</sup>Richard McKnight is apparently both a beneficiary and the trustee of the McKnight  
Trust and one of the McKnight Trust’s attorneys in this action.

1 motion to reconsider transfer of the case from the Hon. Gloria M. Navarro to this Court,  
2 dismissed the second cause of action for declaratory judgment, granted offensive summary  
3 judgment on the first cause of action for breach of guaranty, and permitted 260 other direct  
4 lenders to intervene as Plaintiffs and to add claims against Castaic Partners, LLC (“Castaic” or  
5 “Tapia Ranch”) and Castaic II Partners, LLC (“Castaic II”). Defendants appealed the judgment  
6 against them as to breach of guaranty, but the Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal for lack of  
7 finality.

8       Each group of intervenors has filed its own complaint in intervention. Intervenor  
9 Plaintiffs Thomas J. Kapp and Cynthia S. Roher, as trustees of the T&C Kapp Family Trust (the  
10 “Kapp Intervenors” or “Kapp”) filed a Complaint in Intervention (the “Kapp CI”) against  
11 Barkett and Castaic II for breach of contract, breach of guaranty, and declaratory judgment. (*See*  
12 Kapp CI, May 12, 2011, ECF No. 34). A second group of intervenors (the “Rasmussen  
13 Intervenors”) have filed a complaint in intervention (the “Rasmussen CI”) against Barkett,  
14 Castaic, Castaic II, and Castaic III for breach of contract, breach of guaranty, and declaratory  
15 judgment. (*See* Rasmussen CI, Aug. 8, 2011, ECF No. 61). The Rasmussen CI alleges the  
16 amount each Rasmussen Intervenor loaned the Castaic entities. (*See id.* ¶¶ 5, 67–69). A third  
17 group of intervenors, DACA-Castaic, LLC and Debt Acquisition Co. of America V, LLC  
18 (“DACA V,” collectively, the “DACA Intervenors” or “DACA”), withdrew its motion to  
19 intervene.

20       The Court granted a motion to dismiss the Kapp CI in part, dismissing the declaratory  
21 judgment claim but refusing to dismiss the breach of contract and breach of guaranty claims for  
22 lack of standing. Defendants argued that Kapp Intervenors had transferred their interests in the  
23 relevant loans to DACA-Castaic, LLC and thus no longer had standing to sue for breach of  
24 contract or breach of guaranty. The Kapp Intervenors responded that they had only transferred  
25 the deeds of trust, not the beneficial interest. The Court invited summary judgment motions on

1 the issue but refused to dismiss because the Kapp CI was sufficiently pled. The Court  
2 completely denied a motion to dismiss the Rasmussen CI, noting that the claim for declaratory  
3 relief thereunder was different from the declaratory relief claims in the Complaint and the Kapp  
4 CI that the Court had dismissed. The Court struck Defendants' "crossclaim," which was in  
5 reality a third-party complaint and/or a counterclaim, directing Defendants to refile the pleading  
6 properly, which they did. (*See* Countercl. and Third-Party Compl., ECF Nos. 156, 157).  
7 Defendants countersued several Compass entities, the two DACA entities, and direct lenders for:  
8 (1) breach of contract; (2) declaratory judgment; (3) interference with prospective economic  
9 advantage; (4) usury; (5) breach of fiduciary duty (two Compass entities only); (6) unjust  
10 enrichment; and (7) slander of title.

11 The Court refused to stay the judgment against Defendants in favor of Plaintiff but noted  
12 that it would await summary judgment motions as to whether certain Intervenor Plaintiffs still  
13 owned the beneficial interest in the loans or had transferred them to DACA-Castaic, LLC or  
14 other parties. DACA asked the Court to grant it summary judgment on thirteen issues under its  
15 Counterclaim (as to Defendants' Third-party Complaint) for declaratory relief. The Court  
16 granted the motion in part, ruling that any direct lender who had transferred his or her beneficial  
17 interest in a Castaic loan to DACA had also transferred his or her interest in the respective deed  
18 of trust or guaranty and could no longer sue on the note or Barkett's guaranty thereof, because  
19 the interest in the guaranty followed the interest in the note automatically under California law.  
20 The Court noted that it remained a question of fact which direct lenders had effected such  
21 transfers. The evidence adduced at the time showed only a transfer of Castaic Partners, LLC's  
22 beneficial interest in the Castaic loans to DACA-Castaic, LLC, but did not indicate any previous  
23 transfer from any direct lenders to Castaic Partners, LLC. The Court also noted that no party  
24 disputed that the Castaic loans were in default but that it would not attempt to calculate the total  
25 amount due on each loan at the pre-trial stage. The Court also ruled that the notes were neither

1 usurious nor subject to offset. The Court ruled that the Castaic deeds of trust were enforceable  
2 under their terms and that the pending foreclosures in California under the 2007 notices of  
3 default were proper. The Court also noted that an action against Barkett for breach of guaranty  
4 would not violate the one-action rule even after foreclosure, because Barkett was not the target  
5 of any foreclosure, though Plaintiffs could only collect on a guaranty to the extent of any  
6 deficiency remaining after a foreclosure sale. The Court also ruled that the Purchase Agreement,  
7 under which DACA-Castaic, LLC purported to obtain the beneficial interests in the loans from  
8 Castaic Partners, LLC, was in compliance with the 51% rule under Chapter 645B, and that  
9 DACA-Castaic, LLC's decision to foreclose was valid. The Court declined to rule on the  
10 priority of a lien against the properties held by DACA V, because DACA V and DACA-Castaic  
11 were not adversaries in the present case.

12 Kapp Intervenors also moved for summary judgment on four points. The Court refused  
13 to rule that Barkett was liable to Kapp Intervenors on the guaranty because it was not clear that  
14 the Kapp Intervenors retained the beneficial interest in the loans. The Court again noted that no  
15 party denied the Castaic loans were in default. The Court then ruled that Barkett was liable to  
16 the Kapp Intervenors on the Castaic II Guaranty, but the Court added that Barkett could obtain  
17 relief under Rule 60(b) if he could later show that the Kapp Intervenors had transferred their  
18 interest in the Castaic II note. The Court ruled that it would not attempt to calculate the total  
19 amount due on the Castaic II loan at the pre-trial stage. Next, the Court ruled that the Castaic  
20 notes were to be interpreted by their terms under Nevada law, that Nevada had no usury law, and  
21 that the borrower under the notes had waived any right of offset. Finally, the Court declined to  
22 rule whether any direct lenders were liable for the wrongdoing of loan servicers.

23 Defendants have filed three similar motions. They ask the Court to dismiss the Kapp CI,  
24 the Rasmussen CI, and DACA's Counterclaim for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

25 ///

1       **II.     LEGAL STANDARDS**

2              Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction, possessing only those powers granted by  
 3 the Constitution and statute. *See United States v. Marks*, 530 F.3d 799, 810 (9th Cir. 2008)  
 4 (citing *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994)). The party  
 5 asserting federal jurisdiction bears the burden of overcoming the presumption against it.  
 6 *Kokkonen*, 511 U.S. at 377. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) provides an affirmative  
 7 defense for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Fed.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(1). Additionally, a court may  
 8 raise the question of subject matter jurisdiction *sua sponte* at any time during an action. *United*  
 9 *States v. Moreno-Morillo*, 334 F.3d 819, 830 (9th Cir. 2003). Regardless of who raises the issue,  
 10 “when a federal court concludes that it lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss  
 11 the complaint in its entirety.” *Arbaugh v. Y & H Corp.*, 546 U.S. 500, 514 (2006) (citing 16 J.  
 12 Moore et al., Moore’s Federal Practice § 106.66[1], pp. 106-88 to 106-89 (3d ed. 2005)).

13       **A.     Diversity Jurisdiction**

14              “The district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions where the matter in  
 15 controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between  
 16 . . . citizens of different States.” 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a), (a)(1). Under the diversity statute, all  
 17 Plaintiffs must be diverse from all Defendants. *See Strawbridge v. Curtiss*, 7 U.S. 267, 267  
 18 (1806).

19       **B.     Bankruptcy Jurisdiction**

20              “[T]he district courts shall have original but not exclusive jurisdiction of all civil  
 21 proceedings arising under title 11, or arising in or related to cases under title 11.” 28 U.S.C.  
 22 § 1334(b).

23              Proceedings “related to” the bankruptcy include (1) causes of action owned by the  
 24 debtor which become property of the estate pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 541, and (2) suits  
 25 between third parties which have an effect on the bankruptcy estate . . . . The first  
 type of “related to” proceeding involves a claim like the state-law breach of contract  
 action at issue in *Northern Pipeline Constr. Co. v. Marathon Pipe Line Co.*, 458 U.S.

1 50, 102 S.Ct. 2858, 73 L.Ed.2d 598 (1982).

2 *Vacation Vill., Inc. v. Clark Cnty., Nev.*, 497 F.3d 902, 911 (9th Cir. 2007) (quoting *Celotex*  
3 *Corp. v. Edwards*, 514 U.S. 300, 307 (1995)). Section 541 makes part of the estate, *inter alia*,  
4 “all legal or equitable interests of the debtor in property as of the commencement of the case.” 11  
5 U.S.C. § 541(a)(1). “[P]ending causes of action qualify as ‘property of the estate’ in bankruptcy  
6 under 11 U.S.C. § 541(a)(1)—including causes of action sounding in tort, such as personal  
7 injury, for which the ultimate amount of recovery is uncertain.” *Ileto v. Glock, Inc.*, 565 F.3d  
8 1126, 1148 n.1 (9th Cir. 2009). Furthermore, “[T]he district court in which the bankruptcy case  
9 is commenced obtains exclusive in rem jurisdiction over all of the property in the estate.’ A  
10 chose in action is property of the bankruptcy estate pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 541(a)(1). For this  
11 reason, only bankruptcy trustees, debtors-in-possession, or bankruptcy court authorized entities  
12 have standing to sue on behalf of the estate.” *McGuire v. United States*, 550 F.3d 903, 914 (9th  
13 Cir. 2008) (citations omitted).

14 **III. ANALYSIS**

15 **A. Motion No. 177**

16 Defendants ask the Court to dismiss the Kapp CI for lack of diversity. Barkett is a  
17 California citizen. There is therefore not complete diversity if any Plaintiff is a California  
18 citizen. Defendants argue that at least some direct lenders are California citizens. The question  
19 as to the Kapp CI is whether any of the Kapp Intervenors are California citizens. The Kapp CI  
20 lists only Thomas J. Kapp and Cynthia S. Roher, as trustees for the T&C Kapp Family Trust, as  
21 Intervenor Plaintiffs. The Kapp CI avers that both Plaintiffs are Nevada citizens. Defendants  
22 point to no evidence to the contrary. The Court will therefore deny the motion.

23 **B. Motion No. 178**

24 Defendants ask the Court to dismiss the Rasmussen CI for lack of diversity. Defendants  
25 note that the asserted basis for jurisdiction over the Rasmussen CI is related-to jurisdiction under

1 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) and supplemental jurisdiction under § 1367, likely because there were  
2 several non-diverse intervenors. Defendants note that no Defendant is in bankruptcy, and that  
3 the Rasmussen Intervenors attempt to support jurisdiction under the Asset Resolution, LLC  
4 bankruptcy, but that no claims in the Rasmussen CI arise out of or are related to the Asset  
5 Resolution bankruptcy as those terms are used in the Bankruptcy Code. Defendants also argue  
6 for mandatory abstention under § 1334(c)(2) and equitable abstention.

7 Rasmussen Intervenors have the burden of showing federal jurisdiction once the issue is  
8 raised. They argue that the Court already denied a similar motion to dismiss for lack of  
9 jurisdiction in a July 26, 2011 order (the “Order”). In the Order, the Court addressed  
10 Defendants’ motion to dismiss. Defendants argued that the Court should dismiss for lack of  
11 personal jurisdiction, improper venue, and failure to state a claim, and that the Court should  
12 abstain under *Colo. River Water Conservation Dist. v. United States*, 424 U.S. 800 (1976). See  
13 Order 9:17–20, July 26, 2011, ECF No. 48). The Court rejected these arguments, (*see id.* 9–12),  
14 but never addressed any alleged lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The Court did not even  
15 imply bankruptcy jurisdiction, except to note as part of its abstention analysis that the present  
16 case was “‘related-to’ Article III cases that have been pending in this Court for several years.”  
17 (*See id.* 11:21–22). The issue of subject matter jurisdiction was not before the Court, and the  
18 Court’s statement that the case was related to other Article III cases was not meant to imply that  
19 the case was “related to” any bankruptcy case under the meaning of § 1334(b), but only that it  
20 arose out of some of the same facts as the USA Commercial case and others, which are Article  
21 III cases, not bankruptcy cases. Defendants may raise the issue of subject matter jurisdiction at  
22 any time, and it is the Rasmussen Intervenors, who assert federal jurisdiction, who have the  
23 burden of showing it.

24 In order to be “related to” a bankruptcy case such that federal jurisdiction is  
25 independently supported under § 1334(b), the present case must have some conceivable effect on

1 a bankruptcy estate. That is, it must seek an award against the estate, it must consist of a claim  
2 owned by the estate, or it must otherwise conceivably effect the administration of the estate. The  
3 Rasmussen Intervenors make no argument concerning how they believe the present case does  
4 any of these things. First, Asset Resolution is not a party to this proceeding and does not appear  
5 to be a necessary party. Second, the Rasmussen Intervenors do not allege that their claims are  
6 owned by and brought on behalf of Asset Resolution. Only the Trustee may bring such claims,  
7 because the Asset Resolution bankruptcy has been converted to Chapter 7. The Rasmussen  
8 Intervenors argue that the present case is “related to” the Asset Resolution bankruptcy because  
9 Asset Resolution was for a time the servicer of the Castaic Loans. More importantly, the  
10 Rasmussen Intervenors note that Asset Resolution’s bankruptcy owns the fractional interests in  
11 each of the three Castaic loans that it obtained from Compass USA SPE, LLC. They note that  
12 the Court approved the appointment of a new loan servicer (Cross) and approved Cross’ sale of  
13 certain direct lenders’ Castaic loans to DACA-Castaic, LLC pursuant to a majority vote of the  
14 direct lenders. Asset Resolution, however, still owns its fractional interests in the Castaic loans,  
15 because the 51% rule does not permit the majority interest to transfer a minority interest’s  
16 ownership itself, but only governs administration of the loans. Because the present action will  
17 determine whether the Castaic entities breached a contract to which Asset Resolution is also a  
18 party, whether Barkett breached a guaranty to which Asset Resolution is a party, and will result  
19 in declarations concerning the validity of these documents, the Court finds that the outcome of  
20 the present case could have a conceivable effect on the bankruptcy estate and will not dismiss for  
21 failure to satisfy § 1334(b).

22         Because there is bankruptcy jurisdiction, Intervenors need not rely on supplemental  
23 jurisdiction under § 1367 based upon the existence of diversity jurisdiction as between Plaintiffs  
24 and Defendants when the Complaint was filed. They could not rely on such an argument, in any  
25 case. Such a maneuver, i.e., the later joinder of non-diverse parties in a case based purely upon

1 diversity, is specifically prevented by the supplemental jurisdiction statute, lest the joinder and  
2 intervention rules obviate the complete diversity requirement. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1367(b).

3  
4 Defendants also argue that the Court must abstain under § 1334(c)(2). In related-to cases  
5 based upon state-law claims, a Court must abstain upon motion where the only basis for federal  
6 jurisdiction is § 1334(b) and where an action has been commenced in state court. 28 U.S.C. §  
7 1334(c)(2). As noted, *supra*, the Rasmussen CI is based purely upon § 1334(b) and § 1367, but  
8 § 1367 is not an appropriate basis for supplemental jurisdiction over the Rasmussen CI because  
9 the Complaint is based purely upon § 1332, and the Rasmussen CI would not independently  
10 qualify for § 1332 jurisdiction. *See* § 1367(b). There is jurisdiction over the Rasmussen CI under  
11 § 1334(b), but because that is the sole basis for jurisdiction over the purely state-law claims in  
12 the Rasmussen CI, the Court must abstain under § 1334(c)(2) if there is a pending state court  
13 action. Defendants note that they initiated a state court action in the Los Angeles County  
14 Superior Court against many direct lenders and others concerning the Castaic loans, but that the  
15 California court has stayed the case out of deference to this Court. Defendants appear to be  
16 correct. The Court will not abstain. The California case is stayed pending the present case and  
17 its existence does not require mandatory abstention. Nor will the Court abstain equitably. The  
18 Court will not, if it can prevent it, permit these interrelated cases to be determined piecemeal in  
19 various courts.

20       **C. Motion No. 179**

21       Defendants ask the Court to dismiss DACA's Counterclaim for the same reasons it asks  
22 the Court to dismiss the Rassmussen CI. The motions are substantively identical in relevant part.  
23 The Counterclaim requests many declarations concerning the Castaic loans. These declarations  
24 could have a conceivable effect on Asset Resolution's bankruptcy estate. There is therefore §  
25 1334(b) jurisdiction, and the Court will not abstain.

## CONCLUSION

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Motion to Dismiss Kapp CI (ECF No. 177), the Motion to Dismiss Rasmussen CI (ECF No. 178), and the Motion to Dismiss Counterclaim (ECF No. 179) are DENIED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2012.

**ROBERT C. JONES**  
United States District Judge

# EXHIBIT 5

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

# **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

THE RICHARD AND SHEILA J. MCKNIGHT )  
2000 FAMILY TRUST et al., )  
Plaintiffs, )  
vs. )  
WILLIAM J. BARKETT et al., )  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
2:10-cv-01617-RCJ-GWF  
**ORDER**

This is a complex breach of guaranty case related to the USA Commercial bankruptcy.

Pending before the Court is a Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 331). For the reasons given herein, the Court grants the motion.

## I. FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff Richard McKnight,<sup>1</sup> as trustee for The Richard & Sheila J. McKnight 2000 Family Trust (“the McKnight Trust”) provided \$100,000 out of the total of \$4.5 million that various direct lenders loaned to Defendant Castaic III Partners, LLC (“Castaic III”) through USA Commercial Mortgage Co. (“USA Commercial”). (Compl. ¶ 5, Sept. 21, 2010, ECF No. 1). The McKnight Trust has received no interest payments on the loan since August 2006. (*Id.* ¶ 9).

Plaintiff sued Defendants Castaic III and William J. Barkett in this Court on two claims:  
(1) Breach of Guaranty (Barkett only); and (2) Declaratory Judgment. The Court denied a

<sup>1</sup>Richard McKnight is apparently both a beneficiary and the trustee of the McKnight Trust and one of the McKnight Trust's attorneys in this action.

1 motion to reconsider transfer of the case from the Hon. Gloria M. Navarro to this Court,  
2 dismissed the second cause of action for declaratory judgment, granted offensive summary  
3 judgment on the first cause of action for breach of guaranty, and permitted 260 other direct  
4 lenders to intervene as Plaintiffs and to add claims against Castaic Partners, LLC (“Castaic” or  
5 “Tapia Ranch”) and Castaic II Partners, LLC (“Castaic II”). Defendants appealed the judgment  
6 against them as to breach of guaranty, but the Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal for lack of  
7 jurisdiction.

8       Each group of intervenors has filed its own complaint in intervention. Intervenor  
9 Plaintiffs Thomas J. Kapp and Cynthia S. Roher, as trustees of the T&C Kapp Family Trust (the  
10 “Kapp Intervenors” or “Kapp”) filed a Complaint in Intervention (the “Kapp CI”) against Barkett  
11 and Castaic II for breach of contract, breach of guaranty, and declaratory judgment. (*See* Kapp  
12 CI, May 12, 2011, ECF No. 34). A second group of intervenors (the “Rasmussen Intervenors”)  
13 have filed a complaint in intervention (the “Rasmussen CI”) against Barkett, Castaic, Castaic II,  
14 and Castaic III for breach of contract, breach of guaranty, and declaratory judgment. (*See*  
15 Rasmussen CI, Aug. 8, 2011, ECF No. 61). The Rasmussen CI alleges the amount each  
16 Rasmussen Intervenor loaned the Castaic entities. (*See id.* ¶¶ 5, 67–69). A third group of  
17 intervenors, DACA-Castaic, LLC and Debt Acquisition Co. of America V, LLC (“DACA V,”  
18 collectively, the “DACA Intervenors” or “DACA”), withdrew its motion to intervene.

19       The Court granted a motion to dismiss the Kapp CI in part, dismissing the declaratory  
20 judgment claim but refusing to dismiss the breach of contract and breach of guaranty claims for  
21 lack of standing. Defendants argued that Kapp Intervenors had transferred their interests in the  
22 relevant loans to DACA-Castaic, LLC and thus no longer had standing to sue for breach of  
23 contract or breach of guaranty. The Kapp Intervenors responded that they had only transferred  
24 the deeds of trust, not the beneficial interest. The Court invited summary judgment motions on  
25 the issue but refused to dismiss because the Kapp CI was sufficiently pled. The Court

1 completely denied a motion to dismiss the Rasmussen CI, noting that the claim for declaratory  
2 relief thereunder was different from the declaratory relief claims in the Complaint and the Kapp  
3 CI that the Court had dismissed. The Court struck Defendants' "crossclaim," which was in  
4 reality a third-party complaint and/or a counterclaim, directing Defendants to refile the pleading  
5 properly, which they did. (*See* Countercl. and Third-Party Compl., ECF Nos. 156, 157). In that  
6 pleading, Defendants countersued several Compass entities, the two DACA entities, and direct  
7 lenders for: (1) breach of contract; (2) declaratory judgment; (3) interference with prospective  
8 economic advantage; (4) usury; (5) breach of fiduciary duty (two Compass entities only); (6)  
9 unjust enrichment; and (7) slander of title.

10       The Court refused to stay the judgment against Defendants in favor of Plaintiff but noted  
11 that it would await summary judgment motions as to whether certain Intervenor Plaintiffs still  
12 owned the beneficial interest in the loans or had transferred them to DACA-Castaic, LLC or  
13 other parties. DACA asked the Court to grant it summary judgment on thirteen issues under its  
14 Counterclaim (as to Defendants' Third-Party Complaint) for declaratory relief. The Court  
15 granted the motion in part, ruling that any direct lender who had transferred his or her beneficial  
16 interest in a Castaic loan to DACA had also transferred his or her interest in the respective deed  
17 of trust or guaranty and could no longer sue on the note or Barkett's guaranty thereof, because the  
18 interest in the guaranty followed the interest in the note automatically under California law. The  
19 Court noted that it remained a question of fact which direct lenders had effected such transfers.  
20 The evidence adduced at the time showed only a transfer of Castaic Partners, LLC's beneficial  
21 interest in the Castaic loans to DACA-Castaic, LLC, but did not indicate any previous transfer  
22 from any direct lenders to Castaic Partners, LLC. The Court also noted that no party disputed  
23 that the Castaic loans were in default but that it would not attempt to calculate the total amount  
24 due on each loan at the pre-trial stage. The Court also ruled that the notes were neither usurious  
25 nor subject to offset. The Court ruled that the Castaic deeds of trust were enforceable under their

1 terms and that the pending foreclosures in California under the 2007 notices of default were  
2 proper. The Court also noted that an action against Barkett for breach of guaranty would not  
3 violate the one-action rule even after foreclosure, because Barkett was not the target of any  
4 foreclosure, though Plaintiffs could only collect on a guaranty to the extent of any deficiency  
5 remaining after a foreclosure sale. The Court also ruled that the Purchase Agreement, under  
6 which DACA-Castaic, LLC purported to obtain the beneficial interests in the loans from Castaic  
7 Partners, LLC, was in compliance with the 51% rule under Chapter 645B, and that DACA-  
8 Castaic, LLC's decision to foreclose was valid. The Court declined to rule on the priority of a  
9 lien against the properties held by DACA V, because DACA V and DACA-Castaic were not  
10 adversaries in the present case.

11 Kapp Intervenors also moved for summary judgment on four points. The Court refused  
12 to rule that Barkett was liable to Kapp Intervenors on the guaranty because it was not clear that  
13 the Kapp Intervenors retained the beneficial interest in the loans. The Court again noted that no  
14 party denied the Castaic loans were in default. The Court then ruled that Barkett was liable to the  
15 Kapp Intervenors on the Castaic II Guaranty, but the Court added that Barkett could obtain relief  
16 under Rule 60(b) if he could later show that the Kapp Intervenors had transferred their interest in  
17 the Castaic II note. The Court ruled that it would not attempt to calculate the total amount due on  
18 the Castaic II loan at the pre-trial stage. Next, the Court ruled that the Castaic notes were to be  
19 interpreted by their terms under Nevada law, that Nevada had no usury law, and that the  
20 borrower under the notes had waived any right of offset. Finally, the Court declined to rule  
21 whether any direct lenders were liable for the wrongdoing of loan servicers.

22 Defendants then filed three similar motions, asking the Court to dismiss the Kapp CI, the  
23 Rasmussen CI, and DACA's Counterclaim for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The Court  
24 ruled that it had diversity jurisdiction to adjudicate the Kapp CI and bankruptcy jurisdiction (but  
25 not diversity jurisdiction) to adjudicate the Rasmussen CI and DACA's Third-Party

1 Counterclaim, and that neither mandatory nor equitable abstention under the Bankruptcy Code  
2 were appropriate.

3 In March 2013, the Court granted in part DACA's motion for leave to file a Supplemental  
4 Third-Party Counterclaim against Defendants and a Supplemental Fourth Party-Complaint  
5 (against Pond Avenue Partners, LLC ("Pond"), Merjan Financial Corp. ("Merjan"), and Palisades  
6 Capital (NV), LLC), based upon events occurring after DACA filed its Third-Party Counterclaim  
7 in February 2012. DACA soon thereafter filed that consolidated pleading, i.e., the Answer,  
8 Counterclaim, Supplemental Counterclaim, and Fourth-Party Complaint (the "DACA Pleading").  
9 (See DACA Pldg., Mar. 25, 2012, ECF No. 231). The Court adopted the magistrate judge's  
10 recommendation to strike the answers of Barkett and the Castaic Defendants and to instruct the  
11 Clerk to enter default as a sanction for failing to comply with a court order to retain new counsel.  
12 The Clerk entered default as to the February 2012 Counterclaim, accordingly.

13 DACA asked the Court to strike Barkett's and the Castaic Defendants' Answer and  
14 Counterclaims (ECF No. 247) to the DACA Pleading and also requested a default judgment or  
15 offensive summary judgment as to its third-party counterclaims in the DACA Pleading, offensive  
16 summary judgment on its fourth-party claims, and defensive summary judgment against  
17 Defendants' third-party claims. The Court struck the answer as against the first counterclaim in  
18 the DACA Pleading, but not as against the answers to the second counterclaim and the  
19 supplemental counterclaim therein. The Court granted default judgment in favor of DACA and  
20 against Defendants as to DACA's first third-party counterclaim, but not as to its supplemental  
21 counterclaim, and the Court solicited a proposed form of judgment from DACA. The Court  
22 dismissed DACA's second third-party counterclaim for appointment of a receiver. The Court  
23 granted offensive summary judgment to DACA's on its Fourth-Party Complaint as against  
24 Palisades Capital (NV) LLC, but denied it as against Pond or Merjan. The Court denied  
25 offensive summary judgment to DACA on its supplemental third-party counterclaim against

1 Defendants. The Court granted in part and denied in part defensive summary judgment to DACA  
2 as against Defendants' second third-party claim for declaratory judgment. The Court granted  
3 defensive summary judgment to DACA as against Defendants' seventh third-party claim for  
4 slander of title.

5 Plaintiffs asked the Court to dismiss Defendants' counterclaims as against Plaintiffs. The  
6 Court granted the motion. DACA has now asked the Court for summary judgment in several  
7 respects.

8 **II. SUMMARY JUDGMENT STANDARDS**

9 A court must grant summary judgment when "the movant shows that there is no genuine  
10 dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R.  
11 Civ. P. 56(a). Material facts are those which may affect the outcome of the case. *See Anderson v.*  
12 *Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248, 106 S. Ct. 2505, 91 L. Ed. 2d 202 (1986). A dispute as to  
13 a material fact is genuine if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable jury to return a verdict  
14 for the nonmoving party. *See id.* A principal purpose of summary judgment is "to isolate and  
15 dispose of factually unsupported claims." *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323–24, 106 S.  
16 Ct. 2548, 91 L. Ed. 2d 265 (1986). In determining summary judgment, a court uses a burden-  
17 shifting scheme:

18 When the party moving for summary judgment would bear the burden of proof at  
19 trial, it must come forward with evidence which would entitle it to a directed verdict  
20 if the evidence went uncontested at trial. In such a case, the moving party has the  
initial burden of establishing the absence of a genuine issue of fact on each issue  
material to its case.

21 *C.A.R. Transp. Brokerage Co. v. Darden Rests., Inc.*, 213 F.3d 474, 480 (9th Cir. 2000) (citations  
22 and internal quotation marks omitted). In contrast, when the nonmoving party bears the burden of  
23 proving the claim or defense, the moving party can meet its burden in two ways: (1) by  
24 presenting evidence to negate an essential element of the nonmoving party's case; or (2) by  
25 demonstrating that the nonmoving party failed to make a showing sufficient to establish an

1 element essential to that party's case on which that party will bear the burden of proof at trial. See  
 2 *Celotex Corp.*, 477 U.S. at 323–24. If the moving party fails to meet its initial burden, summary  
 3 judgment must be denied and the court need not consider the nonmoving party's evidence. See  
 4 *Adickes v. S.H. Kress & Co.*, 398 U.S. 144, 159–60, 90 S. Ct. 1598, 26 L. Ed. 2d 142 (1970).

5 If the moving party meets its initial burden, the burden then shifts to the opposing party to  
 6 establish a genuine issue of material fact. See *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*,  
 7 475 U.S. 574, 586, 106 S. Ct. 1348, 89 L. Ed. 2d 538 (1986). To establish the existence of a  
 8 factual dispute, the opposing party need not establish a material issue of fact conclusively in its  
 9 favor. It is sufficient that “the claimed factual dispute be shown to require a jury or judge to  
 10 resolve the parties' differing versions of the truth at trial.” *T.W. Elec. Serv., Inc. v. Pac. Elec. Contractors Ass'n*, 809 F.2d 626, 631 (9th Cir. 1987). In other words, the nonmoving party  
 11 cannot avoid summary judgment by relying solely on conclusory allegations unsupported by  
 12 facts. See *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). Instead, the opposition must go  
 13 beyond the assertions and allegations of the pleadings and set forth specific facts by producing  
 14 competent evidence that shows a genuine issue for trial. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e); *Celotex Corp.*,  
 15 477 U.S. at 324.

17 At the summary judgment stage, a court's function is not to weigh the evidence and  
 18 determine the truth, but to determine whether there is a genuine issue for trial. See *Anderson*, 477  
 19 U.S. at 249. The evidence of the nonmovant is “to be believed, and all justifiable inferences are  
 20 to be drawn in his favor.” *Id.* at 255. But if the evidence of the nonmoving party is merely  
 21 colorable or is not significantly probative, summary judgment may be granted. See *id.* at 249–50.

### 22 III. ANALYSIS

23 DACA first asks the Court to grant it offensive summary judgment on its counterclaim  
 24 for declaratory relief against Defendants that: (1) the nonjudicial foreclosure under the deeds of  
 25 trust on the Castaic and Castaic II properties, including the respective trustee's sales on

1 November 13 and 16, 2012, were valid; (2) Defendants have no right to rescind or set aside the  
2 foreclosures; and (3) Defendants have no interests in the Castaic or Castaic II properties by virtue  
3 of their succession to any interest of any direct lenders.

4 DACA notes that the Court has already ruled in this case that the deeds of trust are  
5 enforceable, (*see Order 9:19–20*, ECF No. 170), and that the then-impending foreclosures were  
6 proper, (*see id. 9:20–21*). The Court agrees that these issues are settled, i.e., that the deeds of  
7 trust are valid and that foreclosures were therefore generally appropriate. The potential  
8 remaining issue is whether the foreclosures were in fact carried out pursuant to California law.  
9 DACA has adduced the two trustee's deeds as evidence of the completed trustees sales and notes  
10 that the trustee's sales give rise to a rebuttable presumption of the validity of the foreclosure sale  
11 under California law. *See Cal. Civil Code § 2924(c); Stevens v. Plumas Eureka Annex Mining*  
12 *Co.*, 41 P.2d 927, 928 (Cal. 1935) (“[T]he recital in the deed from trustee to purchaser at the sale,  
13 coupled with the other facts in the record, is sufficient to show *prima facie* that the trustee duly  
14 gave notice of sale as required by law and the provisions of the trust deed under the terms of  
15 which the sale was had.”). Recitations of compliance with applicable foreclosure laws appear in  
16 the trustee's deeds in this case. (*See Castaic Trustee's Deed*, ECF No. 337-4, at 62; *Castaic II*  
17 *Trustee's Deed*, ECF No. 337-4, at 72). DACA notes that under California law, an equitable  
18 action by a mortgagor to set aside a foreclosure, even where illegality of the foreclosure can be  
19 shown, requires that the mortgagor tender the amount in default, which Defendants have never  
20 claimed here. *See Lona v. Citibank*, 134 Cal. Rptr. 3d 922, 633 (Ct. App. 2011). DACA also  
21 notes that Defendants have admitted having no direct lender interests in the Castaic loans. (*See*  
22 *Supplemental Responses to Interrogatories Nos. 5 and 9*, 3:21–22, 5:2–4, ECF No. 337-6, at 8,  
23 10). The Court finds that DACA has satisfied its initial burden to show that there is no genuine  
24 issue of material fact as to its requested declarations.

25 In response, Defendants first argue that the motion for summary judgment should be

1 denied because DACA filed no separate statement of undisputed facts under “Local Rule 7056.”  
2 Defendants presumably mean to refer to Local Rule of Bankruptcy Practice 7056(a). That rule  
3 applies only to adversary proceedings. Although jurisdiction in this case is based in part on  
4 relation to a bankruptcy case under 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b), the present case is not in fact an  
5 adversary proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code but a “regular” civil case. Local Rule of Civil  
6 Practice 56-1 requires no separate statement of undisputed facts. Next, Defendants argue the  
7 foreclosure sales are void, but they adduce no evidence in support. The only evidence adduced in  
8 opposition are Barkett’s and Carrie Rowell’s brief declarations consisting of irrelevant claims  
9 and legal conclusions. There is no evidence of any irregularity in the foreclosure sales. The  
10 Court rejects Defendants’ arguments that DACA was not permitted to foreclose because it did  
11 not have a 100% beneficial interest in the loan. The Court has already ruled that DACA had the  
12 right to foreclosure under Nevada’s 51% rule. Any minority lenders retain their right to a pro  
13 rata share of the proceeds of the foreclosure, but it only takes 51% to make the decision to  
14 foreclose. Finally, Defendants point to, but do not produce, an alleged declaration in a  
15 bankruptcy case in another district wherein Barkett has attested that either he or entities of which  
16 he is the managing member have acquired some beneficial interest in the Castaic and Castaic II  
17 deeds of trust. Because the claim of ownership is in the alternative (the alternative being that  
18 some entity separate from Barkett has the alleged interest), it would not create a genuine issue of  
19 material fact even if it were adduced. Nor is the declaration alleged to indicate that Barkett or  
20 others apart from DACA in fact own more than 49% of the interest in any of the loans, which  
21 would be the only way for that single piece of evidence to create an issue of material fact that  
22 DACA did not have the right to foreclose without one or more other parties’ consent.  
23 Defendants have not satisfied their shifted burden on summary judgment.

24 Second, DACA asks the Court to grant it offensive summary judgment on its fourth-  
25 party claims for declaratory relief against Pond, Merjan, and Palisades that: (1) the nonjudicial

1 foreclosure under the deeds of trust on the Castaic and Castaic II properties, including the  
2 respective trustee's sales on November 13 and 16, 2012, were valid; (2) Fourth-Party Defendants  
3 have no right to rescind or set aside the foreclosures; and (3) Fourth-Party Defendants have no  
4 interests in the Castaic or Castaic II properties by virtue of their succession to any interest of any  
5 direct lenders. The Court grants the motion in this respect. DACA has carried its initial burden  
6 on summary judgment on these issues as against any potential objector to the foreclosure, as  
7 noted, *supra*, and no Fourth-Party Defendant has responded to attempt to satisfy its shifted  
8 burden.

9         Third, DACA asks the Court to grant it defensive summary judgment against all of  
10 Defendants' third-party claims. DACA notes that the Court has already granted it defensive  
11 summary judgment as against the second and seventh third-party claims, (*see* Order, ECF No.  
12 317), and although it believes the other third-party claims do not apply against DACA, it brings  
13 the present motion for defensive summary judgment against those claims "in an abundance of  
14 caution." The Court agrees with DACA's analysis that: (1) the first third-party claim for breach  
15 of contract is against Compass as the successor service to USA Commercial; (2) the third third-  
16 party claim for interference with prospective economic advantage relates to conduct by those two  
17 entities; (3) that the fourth third-party claim for usury is necessarily without merit because, as the  
18 Court has stated, Nevada has no usury law; (4) the fifth third-party claim for breach of fiduciary  
19 duty expressly applies only against Compass; and (5) the sixth third-party claim for unjust  
20 enrichment relates only to fees and charges by Compass. Defendants present no substantive  
21 arguments in response. The Court therefore grants summary judgment.

22         Finally, DACA asks the Court to enter final judgment on all claims by and against  
23 DACA. The Court grants the request and shall separately enter the Proposed Judgment (ECF No.  
24 331) attached to DACA's motion. Defendants object that the Proposed Judgment would strip  
25 minority direct lenders of their interests in the Castaic loans because it would state that the 51%

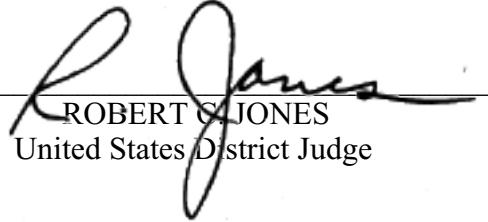
rule permits the assignment of 100% of the interest in fractionalized notes and security instruments upon the consent of 51%. Not so. The 51% rule is not a rule whereby 51% of the owners of the beneficial interest in a loan may assign to themselves the beneficial interests of the minority. This Court has never so ruled, and no party before the Court, including DACA, has ever so argued. The language of the Proposed Judgment is consistent with the law and makes clear that DACA will be the “sole beneficiary of record” under the deeds of trust, but not that it will be the sole beneficiary of the loans. In fact, it makes clear that DACA will be a fiduciary for the minority interest-holders in the Castaic loans, who remain entitled to their pro rata shares of the proceeds of any recovery on those loans. That is consistent with the 51% rule, which prevents minority interest-holders from frustrating action on a loan while protecting their equitable interest in the loan upon a decision by the majority interest-holders to pursue an action.<sup>2</sup>

## CONCLUSION

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 331) is GRANTED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: This 5th day of January, 2015.

  
ROBERT C. JONES  
United States District Judge

<sup>2</sup>The 51% rule technically requires a supermajority to act. A majority is anything greater than 50%, e.g., 50.1%. The distinction does not present itself in this case.

# EXHIBIT 6

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Entered on Docket  
January 25, 2010

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and Robert Fuller  
(collectively, the "Direct Lenders")

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

In re:

Case No. 2:07-CV-892-RCJ-GWF-BASE

USA COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE  
COMPANY,

Debtor.

3685 SAN FERNANDO LENDERS, LLC, et  
al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COMPASS USA SPE LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

In re:

ASSET RESOLUTION LLC, et al.,

Debtors.

Chapter 11

(Jointly Administered under)  
Case No. BK-S-09-32824-bam

**ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS  
TO WITHDRAW REFERENCE**

1 On January 5, 2010, a hearing was held in the United States District Court, District of  
2 Nevada before the Honorable Judge Robert C. Jones in connection with the motions by Certain  
3 Direct Lenders to withdraw the reference, in whole or in part, regarding the Asset Resolution LLC,  
4 et al., Chapter 11 cases jointly administered under Case No. BK-S-09-32824-bam. Pursuant to 28  
5 U.S.C. § 157(d), FED. R. BANKR. P. 5011, and LR 5011, based on the pleadings and oral argument  
6 of counsel, and for all the reasons set forth on the record at the hearing,

7 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the motions to withdraw the reference for the entirety of the  
8 above-captioned chapter 11 cases are immediately GRANTED.

9 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the case and docket entry numbers shall remain the  
10 same, with the exception that the initials following the case numbers shall be changed from "BAM"  
11 to "RCJ."

12 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT all papers and pleadings shall continue to be filed with  
13 the clerk for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada.

14 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure as well as  
15 the Local Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada shall continue to  
16 apply to the above-captioned chapter 11 cases.

17 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT any appeals from orders entered in the above-captioned  
18 chapter 11 cases shall be taken directly to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

19 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the adversary complaint filed by Debtors on December  
20 30, 2009 [Doc. #218], shall be assigned a new case number pursuant to further order of the Court.

21 Dated: January 25, 2010

22  
23  
24  
25 THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. JONES  
26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
27  
28

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

1. On January 12, 2010, I filed and served the following document(s):

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO WITHDRAW REFERENCE**

2. I served the above-named document(s) by the following means to the persons listed below:

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6 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

7 DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010.

8 Name Tawney Waldo

Signature /s/Tawney Waldo

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